

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0002-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC75163

PROJECT NAME: Conveyance of an Existing Power Substation

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian
T. 2 N., R. 103 W.,
Sec. 23 SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$
NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$

APPLICANT: Moon Lake Electric

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Moon Lake Electric is requesting a conveyance of an existing power station from Chevron USA. All facilities have been in existence for decades (see Exhibit A). This facility provides for the electrical needs of Chevron's West End Water Plant. The access and the facility are located in the Weber Sand Unit and do not have an existing right-of-way. No further construction on, or expansion of, this facility is planned at this time.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1601.08) the following plan:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-49

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, E-16: "*Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance*

of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.”

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau of office.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 10/4/2011. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	10/25/2011
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	10/25/2011
Zoe Miller	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	10/28/2011

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The location of the existing power/transformer station was inventoried at the Class III, 100 percent pedestrian level at the time Chevron's West End Water Plant was constructed and portions were inventoried recently for the 4-Way to WEWP pipeline project for Chevron (Davenport 2011 compliance dated 5/5/2011, Senulis 1985 compliance dated 10/25/1985, 1986 Compliance Dated 2/7/1986). There are no cultural resources that would be impacted by the proposal to transfer the station to Moon Lake Electric Association. There would be no new impacts to any known cultural resources.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Special Status Wildlife Species: This feature is closely associated with an existing industrial facility and lies about 100 meters south of State Highway 64; WRFO is not aware of any outstanding wildlife issues concerning the existence or operation of this facility. The Proposed Action is administrative in nature and would have no conceivable effect on animal populations or associated habitat in the Rangely Field.

Special Status Plant Species: There are no special status plant species concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Davenport, Barbra

2011 Class III Cultural Resources inventory for the Proposed 4-Way to WEWP pipeline Replacement (3150 feet) in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for Chevron USA, Inc.

Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (11-11-12: SHPO # RB.LM.NR2255)

Senulis, John A.

- 1985 Intensive Cultural Resource Survey and Inventory of the West End Water plant Rangely Oil Field performed for Chevron U.S.A Inc. Senco-Phenix, Salt Lake City, Utah. (85-62-02: SHPO #RB.LM.NR321)
- 1986 Archaeological Monitor of Construction West End Water Plant Rangely oil Field Performed for Chevron U.S.A Inc. Senco-Phenix, Salt Lake City, Utah. (86-62-02: SHPO #RB.LM.NR321)

MITIGATION:

- 1) The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the operation and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.
- 2) Any proposal involving surface disturbance requires an application to the BLM for analysis and authorization. New stipulations for construction would be applied to projects subject to the regulations and policies existing at the time of authorization.
- 3) The holder of the ROW grant shall not convey, assign, or otherwise transfer, in whole or in part, without prior written approval by the Authorized Officer.
- 4) The holder of the ROW grant shall notify the Authorized Officer of any changes in the holder's status, such as changes in legal mailing address, financial condition, business or corporate status, and alien ownership.
- 5) At least 90 days prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the Authorized Officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection will be held to agree to an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, and surface material (e.g., gravel or concrete), as well as final re-contouring, spreading of topsoil, and seeding. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.
- 6) All sites shall be monitored and treated for noxious weeds, on an annual basis, for the life of the project until Final Abandonment has been approved by the BLM.

COMPLIANCE PLAN:

On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after construction. Specific mitigation developed in this document will be followed. The operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

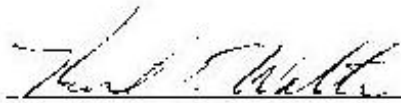
NAME OF PREPARER: Janet Doll

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E-16. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: ..



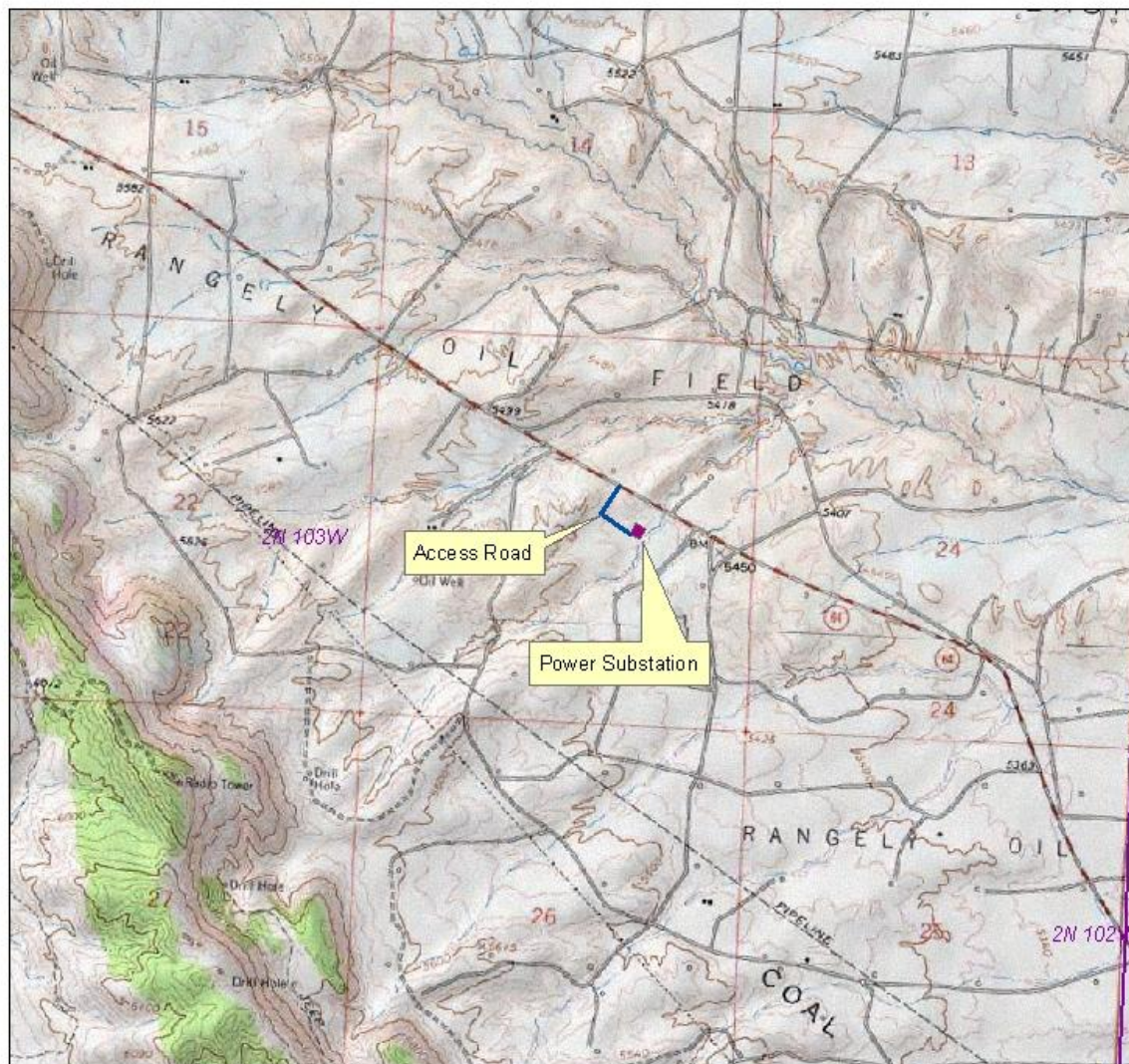
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

11/23/2011

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A: Location of substation

Conveyance of Existing Power Substation COC75163



December 2011



0 850 1,700 3,400 Feet

Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

Disclaimer:
Although the data presented in this map, and the map itself, have been processed electronically on computers of BLM, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by BLM regarding the use of the map or the data presented, nor does the distribution constitute or imply any such warranty.

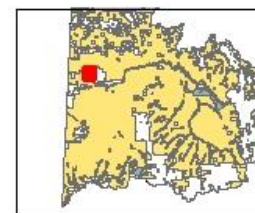


Exhibit A

- Power Substation
- PLSS_Townships_GCDB2008

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: Conveyance of an Existing Power Substation

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0002-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0002-CX, authorizing the conveyance of an existing power substation from CHEVRON USA to Moon Lake Electric Association.

Mitigation Measures

- 1) The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the operation and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.
- 2) Any proposal involving surface disturbance requires an application to the BLM for analysis and authorization. New stipulations for construction would be applied to projects subject to the regulations and policies existing at the time of authorization.
- 3) The holder of the ROW grant shall not convey, assign, or otherwise transfer, in whole or in part, without prior written approval by the Authorized Officer.
- 4) The holder of the ROW grant shall notify the Authorized Officer of any changes in the holder's status, such as changes in legal mailing address, financial condition, business or corporate status, and alien ownership.
- 5) At least 90 days prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the Authorized Officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection will be held to agree to an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, and surface material (e.g., gravel or concrete), as well as final re-contouring, spreading of topsoil, and seeding. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.

- 6) All sites shall be monitored and treated for noxious weeds, on an annual basis, for the life of the project until Final Abandonment has been approved by the BLM.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM informed the public about this project by listing it on the online WRFO NEPA Register on 10/4/2011 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website.

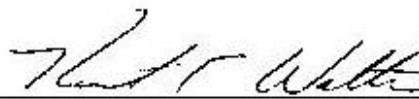
RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E-16. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a Notice of Appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at White River Field Office, 220 East Market St., Meeker, CO 81641 with copies sent to the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, and to the Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS300-QC, Arlington, VA, 22203. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals at the above address within 30 days after the Notice of Appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

11/23/2011